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BOROUGH of LUDLOW.

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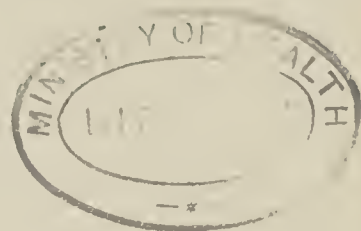
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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TO THE LUDLOW BOROUGH COUNCIL.



Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary condition and administration of your district for the year ending December 31st 1925. The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a "Survey" Report should be prepared for the year, dealing with (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health: (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area: (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority, or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area acres.	-	-	416
Population Census 1921.	-	-	5,630
Population 1925 estimated.	-	-	5,400
Number of inhabited houses (1921).	-	-	1,337
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921).	-	-	1,381
Rateable Value.	-	-	£23,500.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	-	-	£82: 4: 6:

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

It is situated on the south-west border of the County and bounded on the north, south and west by the rivers Corve and Teme, which form a junction on the western side. The gradients are considerable from the centre of the town to the rivers and the natural drainage is excellent. A good proportion of the cottages are of ancient date and occupy the Courts off the main streets. The industries of the district are those of a market town serving a wide agricultural district. It is, in addition to some extent a residential place, and is much frequented by visitors on account of its historical interest.

VITAL STATISTICS.

THE BIRTHRATE, DEATH-RATE and INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
FOR THE YEARS 1920 - 1924 INCLUSIVE.

	<u>Birth-rate</u>	<u>Death-rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u> <u>Rate.</u>
1920	29.0	14.3	85
1921	23.6	15.9	82
1922	23.3	17.1	45
1923	18.2	15.0	49
1924	18.1	17.5	50

The Birth-rate during the five years under review shows a steady decline from 1920, which was a record year for the

district. This is similar to the general Birth-rate of the Country.

The Death-rate has maintained a fairly high average during the period due I believe to the age and sex distribution of the population and also to the large proportion of old houses which are much below the standard of healthy dwellings in the older parts of the town.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a very satisfactory reduction in the five years and this is undoubtedly due to the Child Welfare work of the Centre commenced a few years ago.

VITAL. STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

There were 100 births registered during the year, 41 being male infants and 59 female. The Birth-rate is 18.5 per thousand of the population.

The Rate for England and Wales for the year was 18.3

Five of the infants were illegitimate, which is equal to 5% of the total.

The deaths numbered 64 and the resulting death-rate is 11.8. This is the lowest record for the district for the 14 years for which I have the returns. The Death-rate for England and Wales for the year 1925 was 12.2.

The chief causes of death were: Measles 2. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 1; other Tuberculous Diseases 1. Cancer 4. Diabetes 1, Cerebral Haemorrhage 9. Heart Disease 15. Arterio-sclerosis 4. Bronchitis 6. Pneumonia 6. Appendicitis 1. Nephritis 3. Suicide 2. Other defined diseases 8. Cause ill defined 1.

The absence of any deaths from Influenza and the reduced mortality from Tuberculosis are the salient features of the returns.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

There were only three deaths of infants under twelve months, one each from Bronchitis, Meningitis and Convulsions. The Infant Mortality Rate is 30 per thousand births, the average of the previous five years was 62 and the rate for England and Wales for 1925 is 75.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Tuberculosis: (a) Shirlett Sanatorium. (b) Prees Heath Sanatorium for advanced cases. (c) Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

2. Maternity. Beds are available at Much Wenlock and in Shrewsbury.

3. Children. Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington.
4. Fever. At Ludlow 12 beds provided by the Local Authority.
5. Smallpox at Ludlow.
6. Others. The Shropshire Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital Shrewsbury is subsidised by the County Council for cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and School cases.

All the Hospitals except the Fever Hospital are either provided or subsidised by the County Council.

Institutional provision for unmarried mother, illegitimate Infants and homeless children is made by the County at the Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The Council possess an ambulance, which is used for both Infectious and non-infectious cases and accidents.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Dinham, Ludlow.
4 rooms, provided by County Council.

Day Nursery: Nil.

School Clinic at Dinham, 2 rooms provided by C.C.

Tuberculosis " " " " "

V.D. at Shrewsbury " "

Public Health Officers of the Council: Mr. W. G. Lane combines the position of Sanitary Inspector with that of Surveyor. He holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. A contribution is made to his salary and also to the Medical Officers under the Public Health Acts.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General. There is a local Nursing Association, which provides a district Nurse.

For Infectious Diseases. The County Council supply a nurse in epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza, and for home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Midwives. The Local Authority do not employ or subsidise a midwife. There are three in practice in the Borough.

Chemical Work. Chemical and Bacteriological analyses are made of the water supply to the town every quarter, or oftener if considered necessary, by the Public Health Department of the University of Manchester. Throughout the year they have been invariably satisfactory.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. Byelaws were adopted in respect of New Streets and Buildings, Dairies, Cowsheds and milkshops, slaughterhouses, Lodging Houses and Nuisances in 1903.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. With a few exceptions on the boundary of the district, every house has the water laid on to it. The supply is constant and of excellent quality. In prolonged dry weather some shortage has occasionally been experienced and the Council propose to utilise the disbanded Burway Supply after Chlorination in case of emergency. The improvements in drainage at the Burway Farm recently completed have enabled the Council to secure the sanction of the Ministry to this course.

When the Chlorination Plant is installed the supply will be sufficient for the new houses, shortly to be erected by the Council, and for any further developments that may take place for some years.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Five houses were connected to the public sewers and the house drainage at six houses was relaid or amended. The sewage works during the year were thoroughly overhauled, the tanks emptied and cleaned out regularly, and the land on which the effluent is distributed cleared of undergrowth, with the result that the final effluent is now very clear and satisfactory. All the sewage from the town is now pumped to the Sewage Disposal Works for treatment. Three earth closets were converted into the water carriage system during the year, only two or three now remain to be dealt with on the outskirts of the town.

SCAVENGING. The work of collecting ashes and house refuse is regularly and efficiently done.

The more rapid adoption of the covered ash bin is desirable, they are more sanitary from every point of view.

The refuse tip is well managed and the exposed surface reduced to a minimum by regular covering of the refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Attached to the report is a statement of the Sanitary work completed during the year. Altogether 213 houses were visited in the course of sanitary work. Four legal and sixty-one informal notices were served, and fifty seven were complied with.

The keeping of pigs in large numbers in proximity to slaughterhouses has been the cause of repeated complaints and the Council have taken steps to do away with this nuisance.

No pigs are now allowed to be kept on premises licensed as a slaughterhouse.

HOUSING.

Whilst there is no industrial development likely to increase the demand for workmen's houses in the Borough,

the large number of old cottages, which are much below a reasonable standard of fitness make a further scheme for building very necessary. The Council have, therefore, purchased land on the borders of the district for that purpose and are immediately proceeding to erect thirty houses. There are no workmen's dwellings vacant in the district and overcrowding is very common in the older cottages and there is a large and increasing demand for better houses.

It is to be hoped that in time some of the older and badly decayed structures may be demolished, they have contributed very considerably to the high death rate and the high incidence of Tuberculosis in the area. The absence of alternate accommodation makes the closure of them at present impossible.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| a. | Total. | - | - | 2 |
| b. | With State assistance under the Housing Acts. | | | 0 |

I. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection:

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| 1. | Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects. | - | 73 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations 1910. | | 73 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | | 1 |
| 4. | Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | - | 23 |

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| | Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers. | - | 16 |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of Housing Act 1925.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | - | 7 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | | |
| | a. By owner. | - | 6 |
| | b. By Local Authority in default of owner. | | 1 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close. | - | 0 |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| 1. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | - | 18 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. | | |
| | (a). By owner. | - | 18 |
| | (b). By Local Authority. | - | 0 |

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15 Housing Act 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	-	1
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	-	1
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing Orders were determined.	-	0
4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	-	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. There are only three cow-keepers in the district and their sheds are satisfactory in construction and the premises clean. The bulk of the milk sold in the area is produced in the Rural District. There is an adequate supply of milk of pure and wholesome character. Samples of milk are taken occasionally for examination by the County Authority, and therefore no action is taken by the local Sanitary Authority. No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designation. No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers have been called for in the year.

(b) Meat. The Council have appointed Mr. Lane, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector to act as Meat Inspector. He has attended several courses of Lectures and Demonstrations at Shrewsbury on the subject and had considerable previous experience in the work. Inspections are made by him at the time of Slaughtering each week.

There are two Registered and four Licensed slaughter-houses in the Borough.

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1925</u> <u>January</u>	<u>1925</u> <u>December</u>
Registered.	2	2	2
Licensed.	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

(c) Other Foods. The Bakehouses have been inspected and found clean and all other premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale carefully supervised.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the period under review 1920, 1924 the following notifications were received:

		<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>
Diphtheria.	-	3	88	43	18	7
Scarlet Fever.	-	19	66	48	10	5
Erysipelas.	-		1		1	
Pneumonia.	-	2		2	9	3
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum	-	2	1	1	3	
Puerperal Fever.	-	1			1	1
Cerebropinal Fever.			1			
Poliomyelitis.				1		

The chief feature of the period in regard to epidemic diseases was the very considerable outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during 1921 and the early part of 1922, and the erection of a temporary Isolation Hospital to deal with the position. In a town where the houses in certain parts are very crowded together and isolation is impossible, owing to the lack of bedroom accommodation a small emergency isolation hospital is, I believe of great benefit in the control of Infectious Disease. The rapid dying down of the epidemics of both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria subsequent to the establishment of the Hospital and the diminishing number of notifications in the following three years would appear to support this view. There was considerable evidence in 1921 - 2 that a considerable number of the cases of Diphtheria were the result of contact in the business premises and the prompt removal of them was essential. No return cases of Scarlet Fever occurred as a result of Hospital treatment and no instance of any cross-infection during their stay in Hospital occurred in any case. When the temporary nature of the Hospital is considered and the limited staff the results appear to me to have been very satisfactory.

During 1925 there was one case of Diphtheria notified and three of Scarlet Fever. The cases of Scarlet Fever were separated by intervals of months and were all very mild. No other cases of Infectious Disease occurred except Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Period.	New cases				Deaths.			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1								1
5		1						
10		1						
15								
20	1	1						
25	1					1		
35								
45	2							
55								
65 +								
Total	4	3				1		1

These figures show a very considerable reduction both of notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis, in comparison with the preceding five years, amounting to nearly fifty per cent.

During 1925 there were seven notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis received and none of Non-pulmonary, and there was one death from each form.

Two of the pulmonary cases received Sanatorium treatment.

I am, Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

INSPECTION of DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS for the
 YEAR ended 31st December, 1925, in the Ludlow
 Borough Sanitary District.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register.		10
Number of premises - cowsheds.	-	4
dairies.	-	5
milkshops.	-	2
Number of inspections.	- -	23
Defects found (1) in cowsheds -		
(a) floor or cubic space.	-	-
(b) ventilation.	-	-
(c) lighting.	-	-
(d) structure of floor.	-	1
(e) drainage.	-	1
(f) cleanliness.	-	2
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds.		3
(3) in sanitary condition of drains.		-
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops.		-
(5) in water supply.		
Number of notices - verbal and written.	-	7
Number of these notices complied with.	-	7
Number of defects found and not yet remedied.		

(Signed) P. L. W. LANE.
 Inspector.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1925, in the Ludlow Boro' Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey. - 213

a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent.	-	4
Number of informal notices sent.	-	61
Number of such notices complied with.	-	57
Number of letters written.	-	294

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES;

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.		
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.	-	1
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	-	6
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	-	15
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	-	24
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	-	10
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	-	3
(h) Houses overcrowded.	-	2

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis).	-	8
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	-	3
Privies converted to water closets.	-	3
Privies converted to earth closets.	-	-
Plans for new houses passed.	-	5
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	-	2
Houses connected to public water supply.	-	2
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	-	-
New public wells.	-	-
Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-	-
Houses connected to public sewerage.	-	5
Lengths of new sewers laid.	-	-
Lengths of new water mains laid.	-	-

Proceedings before Magistrates for

Nil

(Signed) P. L. W. IANE,
Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
 YEAR 1925, for the BOROUGH OF LUDLOW, on the
 administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
 in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u>
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	9	1
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	4
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	2	
Total	63	5

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-		
Want of cleanliness.	7	7
Want of ventilation.	1	1
Other nuisances.	5	5
Sanitary accommodation: insufficient.	1	-
Total	14	13

ALFRED E. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Date July 24th 1926.

